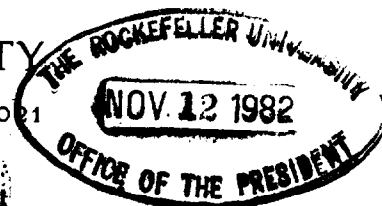




Tannen

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021



November 11, 1982

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University

Dear Josh:

I was pleased to hear from Dr. David J. Sencer at a dinner in The New York Academy of Medicine last night that you have had an opportunity to inquire from him directly about significant laboratory research on Kaposi's sarcoma. I gather that there has been a problem getting good specimens for study, but that now both the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland have intensive research in progress aimed at the isolation and identification of the etiologic agent.

My earlier conversation with Dr. Steven Friedman, Acting Director, Epidemiology, New York City Department of Health, confirmed my understanding that the Department provides ongoing surveillance of cases in New York City and sponsors citywide meetings of clinical investigators. Dr. Friedman also told me that prospective studies have been in progress since 1981 and that contacts are being traced. There have been no cases of Kaposi's sarcoma in medical personnel providing services to patients with Kaposi's sarcoma.

I am enclosing copies of two items:

1. A report entitled "Update on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) - United States", from Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, September 24, 1982, Vol. 31, No. 37, pp. 507, 508, 513, and 514;
2. City Health Information, A Publication of the New York City Department of Health, September 1, 1982, Vol. 1, No. 8, which contains a report entitled "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome".

The available information suggests that in the United States, including New York City, the increase in the incidence of Kaposi's sarcoma is secondary to the increase in the incidence of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome. In Central Africa, Kaposi's sarcoma is endemic in younger individuals; it is not known whether the individuals who develop Kaposi's sarcoma have the acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

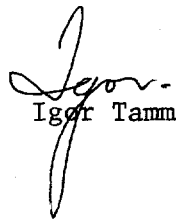
It is possible that the immune deficiency syndrome is induced by a viral agent, but other mechanisms have also to be considered.

As to whether the acquired immune deficiency syndrome with associated Kaposi's sarcoma may assume the proportions of a national catastrophe, it appears to me that this is not likely. However, it certainly presents a very

serious medical problem, as the mortality is high. The fact that the occurrence of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome relates to identifiable factors in the form of behavioral practices on the part of individuals does not make the problem a readily soluble one.

I find CHI (City Health Information) quite informative. As you probably know, it was started by Dr. Sencer, and is available upon request addressed to CHI, Room 602, New York City Department of Health, 125 Worth Street, New York, New York 10013.

Yours sincerely,


Igor Tamm

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